

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS 1000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 245051

FOR IATTC DELEGATION

FOLLOWING REPEAT QUITO 7564 SENT SECSTATE INFO GUAYAQUIL
DATED OCTOBER 14.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7564

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: EXPORT OF ECUADOREAN TUNA TO US AND THE IATTC MEETING IN
PARIS

REF: A)QUITO 7108 B) STATE 224734 C) STATE 224961

1. RAMON GONZALEZ, THE ECUADOREAN GENERAL MANAGER OF DEL MONTE, CALLED THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON OCT. 13 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN THAT BECAUSE THE GOE HAD NOT SENT AN OBSERVER TO THE PARIS IATTC MEETING THAT ECUADOR'S QUOTA WOULD BE CUT SUBSTANTIALLY. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD CAUSE A REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF YELLOW FIN TUNA THAT ECUADOR COULD EXPORT NEXT YEAR TO THE U.S.

2. GONZALEZ SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ECUADOR WAS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE IATTC, ALL ECUADOREAN EXPORTS OF TUNA TO THE US HAVE
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TO BE CERTIFIED AS HAVING BEEN CAUGHT AND PROCESSED IN COM-

PLIANCE WITH C REGULATIONS. THESE REGULATIONS, RAMON SAID, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE QUOTA ALLOCATED ECUADOR BY THE IATTC (WHICH GONZALEZ SAID IS NOW 6,000 TONS) AND ECUADOR CANNOT EXPORT MORE THAN THIS AMOUNT TO THE US.

3. BECAUSE OF CONSERVATION NEEDS GONZALEZ EXPECTS THE CURRENT GLOBAL QUOTA OF 190,000 T TO BE CUT TO 150,000 T. GONZALEZ BELIEVES ECUADOR'S QUOTA MAY SUFFER GREATLY AND CONSEQUENTLY HURT DEL MONTE'S BUSINESS BY REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF YELLOW FIN TUNA IT CAN EXPORT TO THE US.

4. FINALLY, GONZALEZ SAID THAT HE HAD TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BUT HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE USG HAD INFORMED THE MINISTRY THE ACTIONS BY THE IATTC COULD NOT AFFECT ECUADOR SINCE IT WAS NOT AN IATTC MEMBER AND WAS NOT VIOLATING TUNA CONSERVATION MEASURES. THIS COULD BE A MISTAKEN INTERPRETATION OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MFA OVER THE TUNA EMBARGO TREATED IN REFS A, B AND C.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CLARIFICATION OF THIS MATTER. IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE SHOULD ECUADOR'S EXPORTS OF YELLOW FIN TUNA BE REDUCED AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE WORKING HARD TO PROMOTE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS AND OTHER PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT HELP TO AVOID A REPEAT OF LAST SEASON'S PROBLEMS DURING THE COMING TUNA FISHING SEASON.
BREWSTER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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